

# **EAST PROVIDENCE SCHOOL DEPARTMENT**

**East Providence City Hall**

**145 Taunton Avenue**

**East Providence, Rhode Island 02914**

## **School Committee Meeting**

**September 13, 2005**

### **Open Session**

**Chairman Gouveia called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM. All members were present: Robert Faria, Eileen Lovett, David Medeiros, Mildred Morris and Antone Gouveia. Also present: Manuel Vinhateiro, Superintendent of Schools and Robert Silva, Esq. A motion was made by Mr. Medeiros to move to Executive Session in accordance with RI General Laws, Section 42-46-5 (a) (1) Personnel, (a) (2) Litigation, seconded by Mrs. Lovett. Vote 5-0.**

**A motion was made by Mr. Medeiros to return to Public Session at 7:30 PM, seconded by Mrs. Lovett. Vote 5-0.**

**The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag was led by Mrs. Morris and a Moment of Silence was observed.**

**Record of Previous Meetings ¶ A motion was made by Mrs. Morris to**

approve the minutes of the August 2, 2005 and August 9, 2005 meetings, seconded by Mr. Medeiros. Vote 5-0.

### **Chair's Report**

Mr. Rodericks reported the following that the opening of school was seamless; official enrollment numbers will be finalized and reported to the School Committee within two weeks. The School Committee received a copy of the official school calendar. Mr. Rodericks advised that the website will be updated shortly and a new school-to-parent communication system will be up and running shortly through a service called Connect Ed. Notices are being sent home to parents/guardians to collect personal information to be entered into the system, which will allow the School Department to send messages via telephone regarding major events, emergency school closings, etc.

Mr. Gouveia explained that there seemed to be some confusion in the community regarding how the budget process works and he wanted to explain it. The Superintendent presented the school budget to the School Committee and three hearings were held before the final vote. The School Department needs to have a budget ready to send on to the City Manager before he can present the entire City budget to the City Council. The City Manager can decide to pass the school's budget on to the City Council as is, or reduce the amount requested. He explained the process and gave some statistics regarding the per

**pupil expenditure ranking of East Providence as compared to other communities in Rhode Island.**

**Hearings - None**

**Reading of Communications - None**

**Report of Superintendent and Staff**

**FY 2004-05 Budget Update/Monthly Financial Statement ;V Dr. Hilton presented the report; he stated that the budget is still in a balanced state. Mr. Gouveia asked if this report included all expenses. Dr. Hilton confirmed that all expenses have been accounted for; however, even though bills for special education tuitions are still coming in; the budget is in good shape for this time of year. Motion by Mrs. Morris to accept, seconded by Mr. Medeiros. Vote 5-0.**

**Personnel Recommendations**

**Appointments**

**John Andrade     Assistant Soccer Coach, High School**

**Linda Tarantelli     Student Council Advisor, Riverside Middle School**

**Recall**

**James DeBlois     Teacher Assistant**

## **Retirement**

**Anne Butler (30 Years)    Secretary, Adm. Building**

**Effective 12/22/05**

## **Resignation**

**Nancy Flanagan    Yearbook Advisor, Riverside Middle School**

**Motion by Mrs. Morris, seconded by Mr. Medeiros.    Vote 5-0.    Mrs. Morris expressed regret on the retirement of Mrs. Anne Butler, who has served the School Department well.**

## **Facilities Update**

**Mr. Harry Mutter, Director of Buildings and Grounds, reported the following:**

**„X High School ¡V All the holes in the parking lot were repaired. Additional parking stripes were painted in the student parking lot. New electrical outlets were installed for the healthy foods and drinks machines. A new ballast was installed in the clock tower.**

**„X Riverside Middle School ¡V ¡§Buses Only¡¨ signs were installed. ¡§No Parking¡¨ signs will be installed along the wooden barrier in front of the school. All holes in the parking lot were repaired.**

**„X Martin Middle School ¡V New ceiling tiles are replacing old metal tiles starting in the cafeteria. All holes in the parking lot have been repaired and the curbing in front of the school was painted.**

**„X Waddington School ¡V New roof was completed on time. All**

ceiling tiles that were stained have been changed. Two classrooms had their ceiling tiles changed.

„X Francis jV Library was painted during the summer.

„X Silver Spring jV Structural work was completed on the back wall of the school to the satisfaction of the building inspector. A new pathway to the school was constructed by the City. The old pathway leading to the stairs was demolished and covered with loam.

„X All principals have been informed that the temperature will be set at 68 degrees when the cold weather arrives and to inform staff, students and parents to dress accordingly. They were asked to remind all staff to turn off lights when not in use to save energy.

„X Sign was installed this afternoon at Silver Spring School...

Mr. Vinhateiro commended Mr. Mutter and his staff for a fine job over the summer; even with a reduced staff, the buildings were shiny and bright for opening. Mr. Vinhateiro also thanked the City; Mr. Mutter works very diligently and cooperatively with the City workers also. He also thanked Mr. Fazioli for his cooperation.

Requests for Home Schooling jV Dr. Forbes recommended that the School Committee approve requests for students to be home schooled (14 children). A motion was made by Mrs. Morris, seconded by Mr. Medeiros. Vote 5-0. Mr. Gouveia asked if home schooled students receive services from the School Department. Dr. Forbes responded that it would be on a case by case basis; however, these children are allowed to play sports and attend school functions.

**Prospective Grants/Consultants ¡V Dr. Forbes requested approval of grants for consultants as presented. A motion was made by Mr. Medeiros, seconded by Mrs. Lovett. Vote 5-0.**

**FY 2005-2006 Budget ¡V Mr. Vinhateiro reported that following the meeting last Tuesday, the School Committee approved their budget and the budget was sent to the City Manager via letter of transmittal. The City Manager will formally present the City budget to the City Council on September 15, 2005.**

**Curriculum Update ¡V Dr. Jacqueline Forbes presented the School Committee with copies of the Curriculum Frameworks which have also been written in Portuguese. Spanish is in the process of being written and the curriculum frameworks will be placed on the website. Mr. Gouveia said this is a major step forward and he hopes to see this for the Middle and High Schools also. Maryann Matthews asked if the language could be more simplified for parents. Dr. Forbes said schools will have workshops and the principals, parent organizations, and teachers are available to work with parents to understand. Dr. Forbes explained that at district wide faculty meetings, principals and teachers worked together to determine learner standards at each grade level. Educators decided on essential course outcomes, then eliminated inessential curriculum. The Key Questions that drive the East Providence School Department Learning Communities are 1) Are we clear about what students need to know and be able to do to be**

successful; 2) How do we know students are learning and what systems are in place to monitor student learning; What do we do when students are not learning and how do our schools respond? The Curriculum Frameworks are in response to Key Question #1.

A listing of NECAP testing dates was given to the School Committee (new in the fall rather than in the spring as in previous year).

### **Report of Sub-Committees**

**Family Involvement Committee Update** ¶ Mr. Medeiros reported that banners have been given to each school courtesy of RI Parent Information Network. Various events will be held: poetry contest, showcase of schools at each School Committee meeting beginning at the October meeting. A kick-off will be held on October 14, 2005 at Pierce Field for parents, students, teachers, staff members and families. Mrs. Lovett reported on signs, decals and October events.

### **Unfinished Business**

### **New Business**

Maryanne Matthews had requested to be placed on the agenda in order to present information to the School Committee regarding the Universal Breakfast Program. Mrs. Morris asked about the costs the School Department would incur if we have to hire people to serve the

breakfast. Mr. Vinhateiro related that we do have breakfast programs at the schools already; Martin Middle School needed to hire an aide because the participation was high. If the numbers increase at the schools, it is anticipated we will need to hire additional personnel. Mr. Gouveia thanked Mrs. Matthews for preparing the information and appreciated her efforts; however, he has some questions beyond the cost before he could support it; mainly philosophical differences. He feels that parents need to take some care also. He believes other costs would be impacted in addition to staffing, such as transportation. Mrs. Matthews asked for a pilot program now and then any issues could be addressed as they come along. Mr. Gouveia said he will ask the Superintendent to find out what the needs are. He requested that an impact statement be prepared and this item placed on another agenda (not October because of budget).

Mr. Vinhateiro reported that families are only being required to fill out one application for free and reduced lunch and our numbers are submitted to the federal government each month. Mr. Faria would like to see what other schools are doing as far as the numbers of students participating and any bus issues, etc. Mr. Medeiros agreed he would like to take a closer look at this. A motion was made by Mrs. Morris to take this issue under advisement tonight, seconded by Mrs. Lovett. Vote 5-0. Mrs. Matthews said that other school districts are already participating in the program, such as Cranston, Pawtucket and Woonsocket.



## **Payment of Bills**

### **Federal Bill List**

**Warrant #000594 8/26/05 \$ 86,548.24**

**Warrant #000596 8/19/05 \$ 800.00**

### **Local Operating Bill List:**

**Warrant #000595 8/26/05 \$ 1,000,575.25**

**A motion was made by Mrs. Morris to approve the warrants listed above, seconded by Mrs. Lovett.**

**Vote 5-0.**

### **Question and Answer Period - None**

**A motion was made by Mr. Medeiros to return to Executive Session, seconded by Mrs. Lovett. Vote 5-0.**

**The School Committee returned to open session. A motion was made by Mrs. Morris to return to open session, seconded by Mr. Faria. Vote 5-0. A motion was made by Mrs. Lovett to seal the minutes of the executive session, seconded by Mr. Medeiros. Vote 5-0.**

**A motion was made by Mrs. Lovett to accept the contract extension of Dr. Jacqueline Forbes, Assistant Superintendent from 2005-2008 with**

**adjusted compensation of \$100,000 per year; additional duties as reflected in the revised job description and a 10% co-pay of health benefits, seconded by Mr. Faria. Roll call vote: Mr. Faria, aye; Mrs. Lovett, aye; Mr. Medeiros, aye; Mrs. Morris, nay; Mr. Gouveia, aye. Vote 4-1 to approve. Mrs. Morris stated that she was not voting against the individual, just against the contract extension.**

**A motion was made by Mr. Faria to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Medeiros. Vote 5-0.**

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Patricia A. Iannelli, Executive Secretary**

**David A. Medeiros, Clerk of the Committee**